

REF

- It instructs the scholar in the various methods of discovering and refining the subtil tricks of sophisters. *Watts.*
- To REFERR. *v. a.* [*referrere*, Lat. *referre*, Fr.]
1. To dismiss for information or judgment.
Those causes the divine historian refers us to, and not to any productions out of nothing. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*
 2. To betake for decision.
The heir of his kingdom hath referred herself unto a poor, but worthy gentleman. *Shaksp. Cymbeline.*
 3. To reduce to, as to the ultimate end.
You profess and practise to refer all things to yourself. *Bac.*
 4. To reduce, as to a class.
The salts, predominant in quick lime, we refer rather to lixivate, than acid. *Boyle on Colours.*
- To REFERR. *v. n.* To respect; to have relation.
Of those places, that refer to the shutting and opening the abyss, I take notice of that in Job. *Burnet.*
- REFERRER. *n. f.* [from *refer*.] One to whom any thing is referred.
Referees and arbitrators seldom forget themselves. *L'Estr.*
- REFERENCE. *n. f.* [from *refer*.]
1. Relation; respect; view towards; allusion to.
The knowledge of that which man is in reference unto himself and other things in relation unto man, I may term the mother of all those principles, which are decrees in that law of nature, whereby human actions are framed. *Hosker.*
Jupiter was the son of Æther and Dies; so called, because the one had reference to his celestial conditions, the other discovered his natural virtues. *Raleigh's History of the World.*
Christian religion commands sobriety, temperance and moderation, in reference to our appetites and passions. *Tillotson.*
 2. Dismissal to another tribunal.
It passed in England without the least reference hither. *Sw.*
- REFERENDARY. *n. f.* [*referendus*, Lat.] One to whose decision any thing is referred.
In suits, it is good to refer to some friend of trust; but let him chuse well his referendaries. *Bacon's Essays.*
- To REFERMENT, *v. a.* [*re* and *ferment*.] To ferment anew.
Th' admitted nitre agitates the flood,
Revives its fire, and reforms the blood. *Blackmore.*
- REFERABLE. *adj.* [from *refer*.] Capable of being considered, as in relation to something else.
Unto God all parts of time are alike, unto whom none are referrible, and all things present, unto whom nothing is past or to come, but who is the same yesterday, to-day and to-morrow. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- To REFINE. *v. a.* [*refinere*, Fr.]
1. To purify; to clear from dross and recement.
I will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried. *Zech. xiii. 9.*
Weigh ev'ry word, and ev'ry thought refine.
The red Dutch currant yields a rich juice, to be diluted with a quantity of water boiled with refined sugar. *Mortimer.*
 2. To make elegant; to polish; to make accurate.
Queen Elizabeth's time was a golden age for a world of refined wits, who honoured poetry with their pens. *Peacocks.*
Love refines the thoughts, and hath his seat
In reason. *Milton.*
The same traditional sloth, which renders the bodies of children, born from wealthy parents, weak, may perhaps refine their spirits. *Swift.*
- To REFINE. *v. n.*
1. To improve in point of accuracy or delicacy.
Chaucer refined on Boccaccio, and mended stories. *Dryden.*
Let a lord but own the happy lines;
How the wit brightens, how the sense refines! *Pope.*
 2. To grow pure.
The pure limpid stream, when foul with stains,
Works itself clear, and as it runs refines. *Addison.*
 3. To affect nicety.
He makes another paragraph about our refining in controversy, and coming nearer still to the church of Rome. *Aitbury.*
- REFINELY. *adv.* [from *refine*.] With affected elegance.
Will any dog
Refinedly leave his bitches and his bones,
To turn a wheel? *Dryden.*
- REFINEMENT. *n. f.* [from *refine*.]
1. The act of purifying, by clearing any thing from dross and recementitious matter.
The more bodies are of kin to spirit in subtilty and refinement, the more diffusive are they. *Norris.*
 2. Improvement in elegance or purity.
From the civil war to this time, I doubt whether the corruptions in our language have not equalled its refinements. *Sw.*
 3. Artificial practice.
The rules religion prescribes are more successful in publick and private affairs, than the refinements of irregular cunning. *Rog.*
 4. Affection of elegant improvement.
The flirts about town had a design to leave us in the lurch, by some of their late refinements. *Addison's Guardian.*
- REFINER. *n. f.* [from *refine*.]
1. Purifier; one who clears from dross or recement.
The refiners of iron observe, that that iron stone is hardest

REF

- to melt, which is fullest of metal; and that easiest, which hath most dross. *Bacon's Physical Remains.*
2. Improver in elegance.
As they have been the great refiners of our language, so it hath been my chief ambition to imitate them. *Swift.*
 3. Inventor of superfluous subtilties.
No men see less of the truth of things, than these great refiners upon incidents, who are so wonderfully subtle, and over wise in their conceptions. *Addison's Spectator*, No 170.
Some refiners pretend to argue for the usefulness of parties in such a government as ours. *Swift.*
- To REFLECT. *v. a.* [*reflectere*, Fr. *re* and *fic*.] To repair; to restore after damage.
He will not allow that there are any such signs of art in the make of the present globe, or that there was so great care taken in the refitting of it up again at the deluge. *Warton.*
Permit our ships a shelter on your shoars,
Refitted from your woods with planks and oars. *Dryden.*
- To REFLECT. *v. a.* [*reflectere*, Fr. *reflectere*, Lat.] To throw back.
We, his gather'd beams
Reflected, may with matter fere foment. *Milton.*
Bodies close together reflect their own colour. *Dryden.*
- To REFLECT. *v. n.*
1. To throw back light.
In dead men's skulls, and in those holes,
Where eyes did once inhabit, there were crept,
As 'twere in scorn of eyes, reflecting gems. *Shaksp.*
 2. To bend back.
Inanimate matter moves always in a straight line, and never reflects in an angle, nor bends in a circle, which is a continual reflection, unless either by some external impulse, or by an intrinsic principle of gravity. *Bentley's Sermons.*
 3. To throw back the thoughts upon the past or on themselves.
The imagination casts thoughts in our way, and forces the understanding to reflect upon them. *Dryden.*
In every action reflect upon the end; and in your undertaking it, consider why you do it. *Taylor.*
Who faith, who could such ill events expect?
With shame on his own counsels doth reflect. *Denham.*
When men are grown up, and reflect on their own minds, they cannot find any thing more ancient there, than those opinions which were taught them before their memory began to keep a register of their actions. *Locke.*
It is hard, that any part of my hand should be settled upon one who has used me to ill; and yet I could not see a sprig of any bough of this whole walk of trees, but I should reflect upon her and her severity. *Addison's Spectator.*
Let the king dismiss his woes,
Reflecting on her fair renown;
And take the cyphers from his brows,
To put his wonted laurels on. *Prior.*
 4. To consider attentively.
Into myself my reason's eye I turn'd;
And as I much reflected, much I mourn'd. *Prior.*
 5. To throw reproach or censure.
Neither do I reflect in the least upon the memory of his late majesty, whom I entirely acquit of any imputation. *Sw.*
 6. To bring reproach.
Errors of wives reflect on husbands still. *Dryden.*
- REFLECTANT. *adj.* [*reflectens*, Lat.] Bending back; flying back.
The ray descendent, and the ray reflectant, flying with so great a speed, that the air between them cannot take a formal play any way, before the beams of the light be on both sides of it; it follows, that, according to the nature of humid things, it must first only swell. *Digby on the Soul.*
- REFLECTION. *n. f.* [from *reflect*: thence I think *reflexion* less proper: *reflexion*, Fr. *reflexus*, Lat.]
1. The act of throwing back.
The eye sees not itself,
But by reflection from other things. *Shaksp. Julius Cæsar.*
If the sun's light consisted but of one sort of rays, there would be but one colour, and it would be impossible to produce any new by reflections or refractions. *Cheyne.*
 2. The act of bending back.
Inanimate matter moves always in a straight line, nor ever reflects in an angle or circle, which is a continual reflection, unless by some external impulse. *Bentley's Sermons.*
 3. That which is reflected.
She shines not upon fools, lest the reflection should hurt her. *Shaksp. Cymbeline.*
As the sun in water we can bear,
Yet not the sun, but his reflection there;
So let us view her here, in what she was,
And take her image in this wat'ry glass. *Dryden.*
 4. Thought thrown back upon the past.
The three first parts I dedicate to my old friends, to take off those melancholy reflections, which the sense of age, infirmity and death may give them.
This dreadful image so possess'd her mind,
She ceas'd all farther hope; and now began
To make reflection on the unhappy man. *Dryden.*
Job's

REF

- Job's reflections on his once flourishing estate, did at the same time afflict and encourage him. *Aitbury.*
What wounding reproaches of soul must he feel, from the reflections on his own ingratitude. *Rogers's Sermons.*
5. The action of the mind upon itself.
Reflection is the perception of the operations of our own minds within us, as it is employed about the ideas it has got. *Locke.*
 6. Attentive consideration.
This delight grows and improves under thought and reflection; and while it exercises, does also endear itself to the mind; at the same time employing and inflaming the meditations. *South's Sermons.*
 7. Censure.
He dy'd; and oh! may no reflection shed
Its poisonous venom on the royal dead. *Prior.*
- REFLECTIVE. *adj.* [from *reflect*.]
1. Throwing back images.
When the weary king gave place to night,
His beams he to his royal brother lent,
And so shone still in his reflective light. *Dryden.*
In the reflective stream the fighting bride
Viewing her charms impair'd, abash'd shall hide
Her pensive head. *Prior.*
 2. Considering things past; considering the operations of the mind.
Fore'd by reflective reason I confess,
That human science is uncertain guess. *Prior.*
- REFLECTOR. *n. f.* [from *reflect*.] Considerer.
There is scarce any thing that nature has made, or that men do suffer, whence the devout reflector cannot take an occasion of an aspiring meditation. *Boyle on Colours.*
- REFLEX. *adj.* [*reflexus*, Lat.] Directed backward.
The motions of my mind are as obvious to the reflex act of the soul, or the turning of the intellectual eye inward upon its own actions, as the passions of my sense are obvious to my sense; I see the object, and I perceive that I see it. *Hale.*
The order and beauty of the inanimate parts of the world, the discernible ends of them do evince by a reflex argument, that it is the workmanship, not of blind mechanism or blinder chance, but of an intelligent and benign agent. *Bentley.*
- REFLEX. *n. f.* [*reflexus*, Lat.] Reflection.
There was no other way for angels to sin, but by reflex of their understandings upon themselves. *Hooker.*
I'll say you gray is not the morning's eye,
'Tis but the pale reflex of Cynthia's brow. *Shaksp.*
- REFLEXIBILITY. *n. f.* [from *reflexible*.] The quality of being reflexible.
Reflexibility of rays is their disposition to be reflected or turned back into the same medium from any other medium, upon whose surface they fall; and rays are more or less reflexible, which are turned back more or less easily. *Newton.*
- REFLEXIBLE. *adj.* [from *reflexus*, Lat.] Capable to be thrown back.
Sir Isaac Newton has demonstrated, by convincing experiments, that the light of the sun consists of rays differently refrangible and reflexible; and that those rays are differently reflexible, that are differently refrangible. *Cheyne.*
- REFLEXIVE. *adj.* [*reflexus*, Lat.] Having respect to something past.
That assurance reflexive cannot be a divine faith, but at the most an human, yet such as perhaps I may have no doubting mixed with. *Hammond's Practical Catechism.*
- REFLEXIVELY. *adv.* [from *reflexive*.] In a backward direction.
Solomon tells us life and death are in the power of the tongue, and that not only directly in regard of the good or ill we may do to others, but reflexively also, in respect of what may rebound to ourselves. *Government of the Tongue.*
- REFLOAT. *n. f.* [*re* and *float*.] Ebb; reflux.
The main float and refloat of the sea, is by consent of the universe, as part of the diurnal motion. *Bacon.*
- To REFLOURISH. *v. a.* [*re* and *flourish*.] To flourish anew.
Virtue given for lost
Revives, refloresces, then vigorous most,
When most unactive seem'd. *Milton's Agonistes.*
- To REFLOW. *v. n.* [*refluere*, Fr. *re* and *fluere*.] To flow back.
- REFLUENT. *adj.* [*refluens*, Lat.] Running back; flowing back.
The liver receives the reflux blood almost from all the parts of the abdomen. *Arbuthnot on Aliments.*
Tell, by what paths,
Back to the fountain's head the sea conveys
The reflux rivers, and the land repays. *Blackmore.*
- REFLUX. *n. f.* [*refluxus*, Fr. *refluxus*, Lat.] Backward course of water.
Besides
Mine own that 'bide upon me, all from me
Shall with a fierce reflux on me redound. *Milton.*
The variety of the flux and reflux of Euripus, or whether the same do ebb and flow seven times a day, is incontra-verible. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- REFRACTATION. *n. f.* [*refractio*, Lat.] Restoration of strength by refreshment.

REF

- To REFORM. *v. a.* [*reformare*, Lat. *reformare*, Fr.] To change from worse to better.
A sect in England, following the very same rule of policy, seeketh to reform even the French reformation, and purge out from thence also dregs of popery. *Haker, b. iv. f. 8.*
Seat worther of Gods, was built
With second thoughts, reforming what was old. *Milton.*
May no such storm
Fall on our times, where ruin must reform. *Denham.*
Now low'ring looks preface approaching storms,
And now prevailing love her face reforms. *Dryden.*
One cannot attempt the perfect reforming the languages of the world, without rendering himself ridiculous. *Locke.*
The example alone of a vicious prince will corrupt an age; but that of a good one will not reform it. *Swift.*
- To REFORM. *v. n.* To make a change from worse to better.
Was his doctrine of the mass struck out in this conflict? or did it give him occasion of reforming in this point? *Aitbury.*
- REFORM. *n. f.* [French.] Reformation.
- REFORMATION. *n. f.* [*reformationem*, Fr. from *reformare*.]
1. Change from worse to better.
Never came reformation in a flood
With such a heady current, scow'ring faults;
Nor ever Hydra-headed wilfulness
So soon did lose its seat, as in this king. *Shaksp. Henry V.*
Satire lashes vice into reformation. *Dryden.*
The pagan converts mention this great reformation of those who had been the greatest sinners, with that sudden and surprising change, which the christian religion made in the lives of the most profligate. *Addison.*
 2. The change of religion from the corruptions of popery to its primitive state.
The burden of the reformation lay on Luther's shoulders. *Aitbury.*
- REFORMER. *n. f.* [from *reformare*.]
1. One who makes a change for the better; an amender.
Publick reformers had need first practise that on their own hearts, which they purpose to try on others. *King Charles.*
The complaint is more general, than the endeavours to redress it: Abroad every man would be a reformer, how very few at home. *Sprat's Sermons.*
It was honour enough, to behold the English churches reformed; that is, delivered from the reformers. *South.*
 2. Those who changed religion from popish corruptions and innovations.
Our first reformers were famous confessors and martyrs all over the world. *Bacon.*
- To REFRACT. *v. a.* [*refractus*, Lat.] To break the natural course of rays.
If its angle of incidence be large, and the refractive power of the medium not very strong to throw it far from the perpendicular, it will be refracted. *Cheyne's Phil. Princ.*
Rays of light are urged by the refracting media. *Cheyne.*
Refracted from yon eastern cloud,
The grand ethereal bow shoots up. *Thomson.*
- REFRACTION. *n. f.* [*refractionem*, Fr.]
Refraction, in general, is the incurvation or change of determination in the body moved, which happens to it whilst it enters or penetrates any medium: in dioptricks, it is the variation of a ray of light from that right line, which it would have passed on in, had not the density of the medium turned it aside. *Harris.*
Refraction, out of the rarer medium into the denser, is made towards the perpendicular. *Newton's Opticks.*
- REFRACTIVE. *adj.* [from *refract*.] Having the power of refraction.
Those superficies of transparent bodies reflect the greatest quantity of light, which have the greatest refracting power; that is, which intercede mediums that differ most in their refractive densities. *Newton's Opticks.*
- REFRACTORINESS. *n. f.* [from *refractorius*.] Sullen obduracy.
I did never allow any man's refractoriness against the privileges and orders of the houses. *King Charles.*
Great complaint was made by the presbyterian gang, of my refractoriness to obey the parliament's order. *Saundersen.*
- REFRACTORY. *adj.* [*refractorius*, Fr. *refractorius*, Lat. and so should be written *refractory*. It is now accented on the first syllable, but by *Shakspere* on the second.] Obdinate; perverse; contumacious.
There is a law in each well-order'd nation,
To curb those raging appetites that are
Most disobedient and refractory. *Shaksp.*
A rough hewn teaman, being brought before a wife justice for some misdemeanor, was by him ordered to be sent away to prison, and was refractory after he heard his doom, insomuch as he would not stir a foot from the place where he stood; saying, it was better to stand where he was, than go to a worse place. *Bacon's Apophthegms.*
Vulgar compliance with any illegal and extravagant ways, like violent motions in nature, soon grows weary of itself, and ends in a refractory sullenness. *King Charles.*